

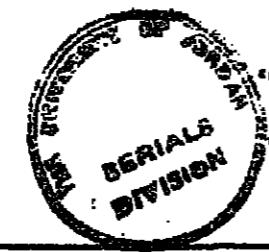
Iran, S. Arabia to exchange ambassadors

TEHRAN (AP) — Iran and Saudi Arabia, rivals rapidly improving their relations after the Gulf war, have agreed to exchange ambassadors, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said on Monday. The Iranian news agency IRNA said Mr. Velayati met his Saudi counterpart Prince Saud Al-Faisal in Isfahan or the sidelines of a foreign ministers' meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC). It quoted Mr. Velayati as saying afterwards that Tehran and Riyadh had agreed to upgrade their ties and already named their ambassadors. Iran and Saudi Arabia were drawn together by their common opposition to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait a year ago, although Tehran criticised Riyadh for inviting the U.S. military to the Gulf and remained neutral in the Gulf war. The two "brotwies," which are the world's biggest oil exporters, re-announced diplomatic ties in March, after a three-year break which culminated tensions created by Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution and the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جريدة تأثير يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية (الرأي)



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Rajavi denounces Iranian interference in Iraqi affairs

BAGHDAD (R) — The leader of the Iranian opposition-in-exile, reappearing in the Iraqi media for the first time in two years, denounced Iranian interference in Iraq's internal affairs Monday. Massoud Rajavi, leader of the Baghdad-based Mujahideen-e-Khalq organisation, told an Iraqi leader that "this continued interference ... (is) a clear act against peace and against the supreme interests of the Iranian people," the Iraq News Agency (INA) said. He was meeting Izzat Ibrahim, the vice chairman of Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council.

Swiss advised against jobs in Kuwait

BERNE (AP) — Federal authorities said Monday they are cautioning Swiss against accepting jobs in Kuwait, where they would ostensibly replace Palestinians. A federal labour office spokesman issued the warning when asked to comment on bold-faced ads in Swiss newspapers in which a Kuwait employment agency is looking for English-speaking "secretaries, nurses, nannies, cooks, waiters" and other personnel. Applicants are asked to send passport details, pay a \$50 registration fee to the Kuwait-based agency and telephone a Kuwaiti number for further information. Pay is promised to be "excellent." Dieter Grossen, a spokesman for the federal office, said the Kuwaiti agency did not ask for the required authority for its recruitment drive in Switzerland. Swiss officials had no background on the agency, he added. Bernard Heywood, identified in the ads as director of the agency, said in a telephone interview that the departure of many Palestinians had caused an acute shortage of personnel.

French soldiers returned to Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — Two French soldiers who went missing in Iraq were returned to Kuwait Monday at a border crossing near the Abdali refugee camp. The two men told a representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) that they had not been mistreated. The ICRC negotiated their return. The men were identified as Chief Adjutant Jean-Claude Laemle, 42, and Adjutant Jean-Yves Sanchez, 37, assigned as technical assistants to the Kuwait air force. They disappeared near the border last Tuesday. French diplomats said. There has been no explanation from French officials here about what the two soldiers were doing near the border.

Nigeria to renew ties with Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Nigerian Minister of External Affairs Ike Nwachukwu said Monday his country would soon renew diplomatic relations with Israel. "My presence here will show clearly the willingness on our part to restore relations and I believe that will be done not too long from now," Mr. Nwachukwu told reporters after meeting Foreign Minister David Levy. He invited Mr. Levy to Nigeria, saying: "I believe when Mr. Levy comes on his visit we will cross the T's and dot the I's and that will be it." Mr. Levy said he would find time for a trip despite a schedule packed with preparations for an October Middle East peace conference and the U.N. General Assembly which he is to attend.

Arson suspected in Tehran fires

TEHRAN (AP) — Arson is suspected in at least one of the three fires in Tehran's main commercial district in a week, a fire-tendered Monday. Commenting on the first blaze last Monday, which raged for seven hours, Mohammad Heydarnazad said: "It is obvious to us that the fire was intentional. "Investigators are continuing to look for clues." But Mr. Heydarnazad, whose station is in Tehran's bazaar district in downtown Tehran, told the AP another fire Thursday that started in a warehouse full of rice and sponge was believed to have been accidental.

PNC to meet in Algiers ahead of planned peace conference

Baker ends Mideast shuttle after talks with Benjedid and offer to Libya to attend parley as observer

ALGIERS (Agencies) — The Palestine National Council (PNC) is expected to meet in Algiers in September, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said. He was meeting Izzat Ibrahim, the vice chairman of Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council.

Algeria's state radio quoted Mr. Arafat as saying President Chadli Benjedid had agreed to host the PNC meeting. Mr. Arafat conferred with Mr. Benjedid in Algiers at the weekend.

The PNC is the highest authority in the Palestinian movement. It appoints the PLO Executive Committee and takes long-term policy decisions which are binding on the PLO until the next parliamentary meeting.

It should meet once a year but the last session was in Algiers in November 1988, when it declared an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel.

The meeting comes before the expected opening in October of a Middle East peace conference sponsored by Moscow and Washington.

A new PNC meeting has been under discussion for months but was held up by disputes within the Palestinian movement over the allocation of seats.

The PLO wants to bring the Mus-

lin fundamentalist movement Hamas into the council but PLO officials said Hamas, which is influential in the occupied Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank, demanded 40 per cent of the seats.

The PNC meeting would have to rule itself Monday from remarks by Arafat aide Rassam Abu Sharif, who said Sunday he expected a deal on Palestinian representation at a peace conference.

An official PLO spokesman said Mr. Abu Sharif's remarks reflected his personal views, not those of the PLO.

Mr. Abu Sharif, who often acts as a mouthpiece for the PLO chairman's more moderate positions, told a group of American reporters accompanying Secretary Baker:

"No I don't think there is an obstacle that will be big enough that will prevent a Palestinian from attending."

The PLO spokesman, quoted by the PLO news agency WAFA, said: "These statements do not represent the view of the PLO nor express its position. They are personal remarks that engage only the author."

Mr. Abu Sharif's remarks were at variance with a statement the same day to Reuters by Mr. Arafat, who said he would not compromise on having Arab East Jerusalem Palestinians at the conference.

Israel has agreed to attend the conference only if such Palestinians

are not among the delegates.

In a message to Chinese President Yang Shangkun Monday, Mr. Arafat reiterated that the PLO was determined to oppose Israeli attempts to exclude the PLO and Jerusalem from peace talks.

The PLO meanwhile dissociated itself Monday from remarks by Arafat aide Rassam Abu Sharif, who said Sunday he expected a deal on Palestinian representation at a peace conference.

Mr. Abu Sharif said on Monday the PLO was still awaiting an agreement with the United States on important points in U.N. Security Council resolutions.

He said the points were Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, and the implementation of resolutions calling for self-determination for the Palestinians.

Mr. Arafat also sent messages Monday to the secretary general of the World Council of Churches and Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, drawing their attention to the danger to Muslims and Christians from the Judaisation of Jerusalem.

Mr. Baker suggested Monday that Libya would be welcome as an observer at the proposed peace conference.

Mr. Baker wrapped up his 23-day trip abroad with the stopover in Algeria.

An observer role for Libya is acceptable to the United States and would be "consistent with Israel's policy" as well, Mr. Baker said at a news conference.

(Continued on page 5)

Iraq admits it had germ warfare lab

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq admitted for the first time on Monday that it had conducted germ warfare experiments but said it ceased shortly after the start of the Gulf war last year.

"The Iraqi side has informed the (U.N.) inspection team that there is a laboratory for biological research for military purposes within a general research establishment," a Foreign Ministry spokesman told Iraq news papers.

"Iraq dropped this biological research completely in autumn 1990 because of the possibility of an attack (by the United States and its allies)," the ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra quoted him as saying.

"There is positively no biological activity for military purposes, for ammunition or weapons building," he added.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said the team had visited the research site in question and authorities presented "all information and fully cooperated with the team to facilitate its mission."

Cooperation is a sensitive issue because of disclosures that Iraq had been less than candid with the first nuclear inspection teams. It was later learned that the country had a programme to enrich uranium, a process that is used in the making of atomic bombs.

President George Bush and other Western leaders reacted strongly. Mr. Bush threatened to attack Iraq again if it did not come clean on all its nuclear secrets.

Under U.N. Security Council Resolution 687, Iraq must fully disclose its capability to produce nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. If they exist, they must be destroyed, along with Iraq's ballistic missiles.

The report came a day after the fundamentalist group Islamic Jihad, which rejects the peace initiative, issued death threats against Mrs. Ashraf and the other two negotiators, Faisal Husseini and Zakaria Al Agha.

The report said army jeeps were ordered to pass frequently by Mrs. Ashraf's West Bank home to deter attacks. Mr. Husseini's home was passed under police guard earlier.

Military sources said Monday they suspected Islamic Palestinians and Israel were plotting attacks in the hope of sabotaging peace for Middle East peace conference in October.

They said Palestinians from left-wing and religious groups might attack Israeli targets, while militant Jews might attack Palestinians taking part in the peace efforts.

(Continued on page 5)

2 found killed in West Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A brother and another relative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) representative in Libya were found dead in the occupied West Bank Monday.

The two men were abducted by unknown men from their homes in the village of Qabatiya Saturday, and their bodies were found Monday, dumped in the nearby town of Jenin, the reports said.

An army official said Qabatiya's shukrak notified authorities of the deaths. The case was under investigation, the official said.

Reporters identified one victim was Ali Assad Abu Rab, 34, the brother of the PLO's representative in Libya, Izzat Ibrahim. The second was Mohammad Nabil Abu Rab, 29, a distant relative of the PLO official, the reporters said.

Also Monday, Israel Radio reported the army stepped up security for Hanan Ashrawi, one of three Palestinians who met with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker last week to discuss proposed Middle East peace talks.

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Formal probe launched into 1980 hostage release

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Congress' Democratic leaders on Monday announced a formal investigation into charges that the 1980 Reagan-Bush campaign schemed with Iranians to delay the release of American hostages until after the presidential election.

House of Representatives Speaker Thomas Foley and Senate majority leader George Mitchell said the investigation would be carried out by the House foreign affairs and Senate foreign relations committees.

"These allegations are both persistent and disturbing," the two leaders said in a joint statement.

Mr. Foley told reporters that he and Mr. Mitchell accepted President Bush's word that he had nothing to do with the allegations.

"We have no conclusive evidence of wrongdoing, but the seriousness of the allegations and the weight of circumstantial information compel an effort to establish the facts," speaker Foley and Mr. Mitchell said in their statement.

White House spokesman Marvin Fitzwater said Mr. Bush has mixed feelings about the investigation.

"The president's always said that if there's legitimate evidence, and real reasons for an investigation, then they ought to get to the bottom of it. If it's just what you call a whitewash of some kind, then it's foolish."

Rep. Lee Hamilton of Indiana will lead the House of Representatives investigation. Sen.

Terry Sanford, of North Carolina, will head the effort in the Senate.

The investigation would be a waste of time and money. "I think we'll be wasting an awful lot of money on a charade," he told reporters. "There's nothing there and the people back home don't give two hoots about it."

Asked if he thought the Democrats were holding the investigation for political reasons, Mr. Michel said, "There's no question about it." But Mr. Foley responded by saying, "it's not a waste of time to put these allegations to rest."

Gary Sick, a member of Mr. Carter's National Security Council (NSC) staff, alleged in a New York Times article in April that Reagan campaign officials met with Iranians during 1980 to prevent a hostage release before the Nov. 4 elections.

"For this favour, Iran was rewarded with a substantial supply of arms from Israel," he said.

Mr. Sick said Reagan's staff was fearful of an "October surprise" that could swing the election to Mr. Carter.

The 52 American hostages were freed by Iran minutes after Mr. Reagan was sworn in as president on Jan. 20, 1981, ending Mr. Carter's four-year term. The hostages had been held since Oct. 3.

(Continued on page 5)

1979 when they were captured by militants who seized the U.S. embassy in Tehran.

Mr. Carter's failure to win release of the hostages was seen as a major factor in his overwhelming loss to Mr. Reagan and his vice-presidential running mate Bush.

"In the course of hundreds of interviews, in the United States, Europe and the Middle East, I have been told repeatedly that individuals associated with the Reagan-Bush campaign of 1980 met secretly with Iranian officials to delay the release of the American hostages until after the presidential election," Mr. Sick wrote.

"For this favour, Iran was rewarded with a substantial supply of arms from Israel," he said.

Mr. Sick said Reagan's staff was fearful of an "October surprise" that could swing the election to Mr. Carter.

Allowing Iraq to resume oil exports would require a decision by the U.N. Sanctions Commit-



Prince Hassan meets World Bank team:

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan received Monday a World Bank technical team currently visiting the Kingdom (photo above). Discussions in the meeting centred on developing the science and technology sector in Jordan and means to promote

national exports to new markets. The delegation praised the standard of Jordanian products and reaffirmed the bank's policy of helping the development of national industries and the science and technology sectors (Petra photo).

Jordan urges OIC to seek an end to sanctions on Iraq

Kingdom exerting efforts to heal rift in Arab and Islamic ranks — Ensour

ISTANBUL (Petra) — Jordan Monday called for an end to the economic embargo which, it said, is threatening the lives of 150,000 Iraqi children in the coming few months due to severe food and medical shortage.

"Jordan appeals to the Islamic and Arab countries to end their differences resulting from the Gulf crisis and reestablish solidarity that can help the Arabs and Muslims overcome problems and build bridges of cooperation," said Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensour.

Mr. Mubarak did not make any statements on arrival at the Nuzha airport in the city of Alexandria, 240 kilometres northwest of Cairo where the president spends his summers.

The first day of talks between the two leaders focused on a U.S. proposal for a Middle East peace conference and the second day was dedicated to bilateral issues.

Libya is the only country that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker did not include in his tour of North Africa where he discussed with leaders there their possible role in the peace talks. He visited Morocco and Tunisia over the weekend and was in Algeria Monday.

The United States has no relations with Libya which it accuses of sponsoring terrorism.

Diplomats said Mr. Mubarak's unannounced trip appeared to be intended to persuade Col. Qaddafi to take a positive, rather than a destructive attitude towards the U.S.-led peace efforts.

They held another round of talks Sunday night to discuss the Middle East peace process, newspapers said.

He also said the unresolved Palestine problem was impeding the Arab and Islamic nations' endeavours to attain scientific and technological progress.

Israel, the minister said, has exploited the new developments in international relations and succeeded in "rallying support for world Zionism at a time when the Arabs and Muslims are in total disarray."

The Gulf crisis, the minister added, has revealed "the presence of a dangerous weakness in Arab and Islamic nations' relations and within the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC)."

In view of its geographic location and its relations with Arab and Islamic countries, Jordan has been seeking to build relations with Arab and Muslim countries on the basis of mutual respect and to solve conflicts through peaceful means, the minister said.

At present the Kingdom is seeking to heal the rift among Islamic countries resulting from the Gulf crisis and is building bridges of cooperation among Arab and Islamic nations, especially with the Palestinian people who are exposed to real danger under Israeli occupation, he said.

Dr. Ensour referred to recent reports about the deteriorating economic and social conditions in

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Saud: Israel to blame if peace efforts fail

ISTANBUL (R) — Saudi Arabia's foreign minister said Monday the Arabs have done their part to make peace with Israel and the Jewish state should take the blame if a Middle East conference did not materialise.

"We are at a historical crossroads. The Arabs have chosen the path of peace. History will not have mercy upon those who stand as a stumbling block in this way," Prince Saud Al Faisal told a meeting of foreign ministers from the 45-nation Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

"The Israeli party is still obstructing the process of peace, refusing to respond to the call of peace and must be held responsible for this," he said in a speech.

He said that Israel's policy of building new settlements in the occupied territories was "a major obstacle to current efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East."

Kuwait has backed efforts by U.S. Security of State James Baker to convene a Middle East peace conference co-sponsored by the Soviet Union, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt have agreed to attend the conference.

Israel has agreed to attend the talks if Washington can come up with an acceptable formula for who will represent the Palestinians. The issue is seen as the main obstacle in the way of a conference.

Israel refuses to sit down with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

It also opposes the presence of Palestinian delegates from Arab East Jerusalem.

Prince Saud said Jerusalem, apparently referring to the eastern part of the city, was part of the Israeli-occupied territories. He did not elaborate.

He also called for international action to pressure Israel into withdrawing from South Lebanon.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati told the OIC

meeting Palestinians could gain nothing from the proposed peace conference and should intensify their uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories.

"In our view, only Israel stands to gain from the negotiations," he said.

"Even in the most optimistic assessment, the peace conference could not contain any gains for the Palestinian cause," Velayati said, adding:

"We find the future of Palestine as gruesome and vague."

The OIC meeting is being attended by a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) delegation and ministers from all Arabs countries involved in the Middle East conflict.

Mr. Velayati told the meeting: "We believe an honourable settlement of the Palestinian problem is only possible through a deepening of the intifada, and after a strong and united front has been formed."

He said that for the United States, which is pressing for an October peace conference, "Israeli interests reign supreme."

He said the divisions in the Islamic community caused by the Gulf crisis had allowed Israel to harden its position on all questions, including territory, migration and Palestinian representation in talks.

Even if a Middle East conference were convened, he said it "would not lead to the complete realisation of the rights of the Palestinian people."

"So long as the Muslim Palestinian nation does not regain its rights, peace will not return to this region."

Mr. Velayati said time was on the Palestinians' side as Israel had never been nor would ever be able to crush the intifada, which began in December 1987.

"The movement has not been suppressed despite the resort to most violent methods," he said.

Bush voices confidence over Cyprus settlement

NICOSIA (AP) — President George Bush Monday sent a message to the president of Cyprus expressing confidence that progress can be achieved towards reunification of the war-divided island.

The message was a follow-up to last Friday's announcement by Mr. Bush that Greek Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis and Turkish President Turgut Ozal had agreed to discuss the future of Cyprus at a meeting in the United States in September, provided there is an adequate narrowing of differences meaning.

An official Cyprus government statement quoted Mr. Bush as underlined "that both the United States and the United Nations are now in a much improved position to press for progress."

Mr. Bush also stated that every effort will be made to narrow differences before the September meeting.

Mr. Bush further described the current momentum as very encouraging. He stressed that the United States keeps an open mind and is ready to discuss with all parties concerned the question of their own role in the September meeting.

Mr. Bush will be guided on this issue by the U.N. secretary-general's view of what would best promote a Cyprus settlement.

This was seen as a reference by Mr. Bush to a basic disagreement between the two sides over the participants at the September meeting.

The Turkish view, supported by Mr. Bush in earlier statements, is that this should be confined to Greece, Turkey and the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities.

The Greek side demands a wider meeting with the participation of Greece, Turkey, the Cypriot government, plus representatives of the two island communities and the five permanent members of the Security Council.

The four-party meeting is seen as an attempt to elevate the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state.

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 73111-19
PROGRAMME TWO
18:30 Documentary
18:30 Soigne Coache
18:30 News in French
18:15 Aujourd'hui
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 News in Arabic
20:30 Perfect Strangers
20:55 Missions in Jordan
21:10 Our House
22:30 News in English
22:30 Columbus
PRAYER TIMES
04:22 Fajr
05:59 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:22 Asr
19:34 Maghrib
21:01 Isha
CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swieifekh: Tel. 630740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632783, 685326
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be fair and winds will be northwesterly moderate, freshening at times. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Ammara 17/28
Aqaba 24/35
Derna 18/34
Jordan Valley 23/35
Yesterday's high temperatures: Ammara 96.5417



Rescue workers and paramedics remove charred bodies from the bombed Al Ameriyah shelter in February 1991 (File photo)

Destroyed bombed shelter stands as memorial in Baghdad

By Walter Putnam
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The blackened concrete walls of the Ameriya air raid shelter still stand.

The only light in the cavernous, ground-floor chamber of the shelter comes from the gaping hole in the roof where a bomb crashed through in early February, incinerating hundreds of people who had sought refuge inside.

Ray of light illuminate the severed, gnarled steel bars that once reinforced the three-metre thick concrete ceiling. A sheet of steel that lined the ceiling is peeled back in a giant curl.

Light shines on a four-metre wide crater in the cement floor where the bombs continued their deadly path into the underground chamber.

About 4:30 a.m., they heard the sounds of aircraft.

"Suddenly, there was a big explosion. We could tell it was nearby. Most of the windows were shattered," Mr. Abbas said. "We ran downstairs. There was another explosion that smashed the rest of the windows."

He looked out the kitchen window and saw smoke com-

civilians were using it?" asked Taleb Abbas, who lives across the street from the shelter.

"I told my brother, 'look. I think it was the shelter that was hit!'"

They ran across the street. "I stumbled over two bodies, two women. The door was locked from the inside. Nobody else could get out. We couldn't get in," Mr. Abbas said. "I realised then that we had lost them all. I started screaming."

Fire brigades soon arrived, but the doors to the shelter had been locked before the raid and rescue workers could not immediately get inside.

"All of us were helpless. We couldn't do anything," Mr. Abbas said. "No one could get in until people from the Department of Military Industry came. They began to bring out bodies. They were all burned, badly burned."

Most of the dead were burned beyond recognition and identifying the casualties took days.

Those who could be identified were buried by their families. The others were placed in a mass grave.

Cabinet members rally around Shamir and warn Sharon

TEL AVIV (AP) — Senior cabinet members Monday warned Hawkish Housing Minister Ariel Sharon to stop personal attacks on Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir over the prime minister's role in the peace process.

Mr. Sharon is the most outspoken opponent of Israel's participation in proposed Middle East peace talks, and in Sunday's stormy cabinet session accused Israeli leaders of being "amateur negotiators."

The cabinet voted 16-3 to approve Mr. Shamir's proposal that Israel attend the talks, provided that the dispute over Palestinian negotiators is settled. Mr. Sharon was among those who voted "No."

Police Minister Ronnie Milo, who belongs to Mr. Shamir's inner circle, said he could understand emotional outbursts in the heat of debate, but suggested that Mr. Shamir would not tolerate additional attacks.

"If there are troubles, the prime minister certainly will have to express his opinion and prevent them so the government can function," Mr. Milo said on Israel Radio Monday.

The Haaretz newspaper said several senior cabinet ministers suggested that Mr. Shamir fire Mr. Sharon unless Mr. Sharon stops his attacks. It did not name the ministers, and Mr. Milo said he was not among them.

Mr. Sharon, who was the architect of Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, claims the U.S.-proposed peace conference is more likely to bring war than result in an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Foreign Minister David Levy sharply rebuked Mr. Shamir in an interview with Israel Radio, calling his comments "unsubstantial, frustration bordering on audacity and arrogance."

"We have achieved positions that everyone thought impossible just a year ago. Israel is marching on the path of peace under the best possible opening conditions," Mr. Levy added.

Mr. Sharon alleged that Mr. Shamir had reversed earlier government decisions against allowing U.N. and European participation in peace talks. He asserted that "Syria hasn't undergone any changes" in its policy towards Israel.

The United States is leading us into a very dangerous process," Mr. Sharon told Israel Television. He maintained that the proposed talks were a "Syrian trick."

He said the government put on "an amazing show of weakness in the conduct of negotiations ... we in essence gave in on all our demands, because of the amateur way the negotiations were conducted."

Mr. Shamir, who rarely displays emotion, said during the cabinet session he would not panic personal insults and that his critics only showed "an unbridled lust for power," according to radio reports.

Meanwhile, Mr. Shamir has begun to prepare for talks. The prime minister's office, the defense ministry and the foreign ministry are cooperating to work out Israel's negotiating positions.

The Yediot Achronot newspaper said one proposal is to aim for interim settlements with Syria, Lebanon and Jordan that do not involve "territorial compromise."

The peace conference is to be based on U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 which call on Israel to give up land occupied in the 1967 war in exchange for secure borders.

Mr. Shamir has said Israel would not withdraw from any occupied lands, a move that has helped him hold far-right members of his cabinet at bay.

He specifically mentioned a refusal to withdraw from the Golan. That statement was meant to cut off speculation that Israel would be willing to compromise on the Golan for peace with Syria, it most implacable Arab foe.

After Sunday's cabinet session, Health Minister Ebud Olmer, another member of Mr. Shamir's circle, said Israel would not change its "firm position" on keeping the strategic heights.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

man 29, Aqaba 36. Humidity readings: Ammara 59 per cent, Aqaba 32 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Saeed Tawfiq 788285

Dr. Ayyam Abdal Jaber 614222

Dr. A. Al-Sabri 612596

Dr. Khalil Abdal Ghanim 701326

Firdous pharmacy 661265

Al Asema pharmacy 657055

Nairoshk pharmacy 632672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 649945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair and winds will be

northwesterly moderate, freshening at

times. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly

moderate and seas calm.

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 773121

Hospital 644212

Symposium on industrial investments recommends setting up reference centre

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day symposium which discussed investments in small industrial projects and their role in promoting the national economy concluded its works in Amman Monday.

The symposium, which was organised by the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) in cooperation with the Industrial Development Bank (IDB) called in recommendations issued at the conclusion of its meetings for setting up a reference centre whose task will be gathering information on and classifying small industries which have a chance of success.

The symposium recommended establishing an ad-hoc bureau to be affiliated to the reference centre. The bureau will be receiving investors from all economic and social sectors of the society and provide them with consultation on small projects.

The symposium also called for setting up a data bank that will make available information on industrial studies and marketing projects.

Participants at the seminar called for adopting a clear-cut method for classifying small industrial projects and establishing a marketing establishment to support these projects.

The seminar also called for amending the investment law and for forming a committee comprising representatives of the JEA, IDB, the Development and Employment Fund and the Ministry of Trade and Industry, to conduct feasibility studies on small projects.

House to discuss draft laws

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament will hold a meeting Wednesday under the chairmanship of Speaker Abdul Latif Arabyat and in the presence of Prime Minister Taher Masri and Cabinet members.

The meeting will discuss the House's Financial Committee resolutions on a draft law endorsing a loan agreement between the Jordanian and the Belgian governments and on an amendment to the extra tax law for the year 1991.

The Legal Committee met Monday and decided to revise some of the articles in the amended state security court law for 1991. The committee will meet Tuesday to resume discussion of the remaining articles of the state security court law and the higher court of justice law of 1989.

The Palestine and the Occupied Arab Territories Committee at the House also met Monday under its Chairman Abdul Aziz Jaber. The committee decided to follow up recommendations by the House on citizens from the Gaza Strip who are living in Jordan.

Discussed at the meeting were the issues of providing the Gazans with education, issuing them driving licences and temporary passports to facilitate their travels abroad and including them in a health care scheme.

The committee decided to form a sub-committee that will meet the prime minister and the minister of interior for discussion of these matters.

In another development, the House's Public Freedoms and Citizens' Rights Committee will hold a meeting Tuesday morning and the Administrative Committee will meet Wednesday. Both committees will discuss issues listed on their agendas.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday inspects a project for the restoration of an ancient Roman road in Madaba (Petra photo)

Queen inspects restoration project

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday evening inspected a project for the restoration of an ancient Roman road in Madaba, some 30 kilometres south of Amman, and was briefed on work going on at the site.

Archaeologists and special teams working in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities are also restoring sites with mosaics, abounding in the Madaba District, dating back to the Roman and Byzantine eras.

The Queen visited a number of old Madaba houses, bought by the Ministry of Tourism to create a school for teaching local citizens in the skill of restoring mosaics and frescoes in Jordan.

The project, expected to take a year to be completed, is being financed by the Italian, Canadian, and U.S. governments which are providing specialists and offering Jordanian scholarships in this type of work.

The Jordanians are to be trained in this particular skill in Italy and come back to train others in the same field, according to Ministry of Tourism officials.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is financing the creation of a special museum to house mosaic plates and floors while the Canadian government is helping to finance premises at Umm Qais and Pella.

The project will be carried out, it said, in conjunction with the development of the mosaic school.

The purpose of the Madaba project is to create a model for employment of local labourers in cultural preservation projects.

At these two sites, 75 to 100 local workers will be employed for the next year. The project will be closely monitored for its economic effects by USAID in the hope that it will be the first of many such projects throughout the Kingdom.

According to a press release,

USAID is providing \$200,000 for the excavation, preservation and protection of the mosaics at the Apostles' Church in Madaba.

USAID has selected the American Centre of Oriental Research (ACOR) in Amman to undertake the project due to the archaeological importance of these sites and ACOR's experience with similar construction projects at Umm Qais and Pella.

The project will be carried out, it said, in conjunction with the development of the mosaic school.

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According to a press release,

Little immediate impact seen in Jordan of lifting of Kuwaiti bank restrictions

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The lifting on Aug. 3 of all restrictions on withdrawals and transfers from accounts in Kuwaiti banks is not expected to have any immediate impact on Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates who have returned home during the Gulf crisis, banking officials said Monday.

But it clears the way for many expatriates, who remained in Kuwait during the Gulf crisis and the subsequent war, to withdraw their savings and leave the country if they want to, and heralds another wave of expatriates returning to Jordan.

The lifting of limits imposed on withdrawals also facilitates the payment of termination compensation to expatriates whose contracts have not been renewed," said Amer Abu Qash, a civil engineer who returned home in December.

But for expatriates who are struggling to make ends meet after arriving here penniless from Kuwait there is no light at the end of the tunnel.

"There are thousands of transfer applications already pending with Kuwaiti banks for months under the limited withdrawals allowed until this week," said a senior official at the Cairo-Amman Bank, one of the Jordanian banks handling the affair.

According to the official, who preferred anonymity, the Cairo-Amman Bank has received transfers from Kuwaiti authorities have declared null and void all transactions — withdrawals included — from any account in Kuwaiti banks during the occupation, which began Aug. 2.

An assistant at the transfers department of the Arab Bank, which is believed to handle the bulk of withdrawal applications from Kuwaiti banks, said he expected that "all those who already managed to get part of their balances (under the limited withdrawal system) will not face many problems since their cases have already been established."

"I think they will be able to withdraw their balances without much delay," he told the Jordan Times. "But those who are still awaiting may have to wait for some time more, before the banks in Kuwait put their house in order."

At least five cases cited by an official who did not want to be identified, is also the lack of proper documents at Kuwaiti banks which have to scrutinise every paper before satisfying themselves."

In all the five cases, according to the official, applicants who had much less than the 4,000 Kuwaiti dinars allowed to be transferred every month were "surprised to note that their accounts were credited with 4,000 Kuwaiti dinars."

"These were isolated instances, which happened in April, when the staff at the Kuwaiti banks apparently did not even bother to check the actual balances beyond verifying that the names given in the withdrawal papers did actually operate accounts with them," commented the official.

"On the other hand, people who have over 10,000 or 15,000 dinars — and many others with less than 1,000 dinars — are still waiting for their transfers," added the official.

Premier, provincial governors stress need for decentralisation

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Taher Masri chaired a meeting at the Interior Ministry Monday to discuss the responsibilities of provincial governors and Jordan's economic policies.

Interior Minister Jawdat Esbou said in a statement after the meeting that the prime minister had focused attention on problems of concern to local communities and on solutions for such problems.

The prime minister emphasised the need to implement the decentralisation system in local governments and to develop provincial governor's duties and handling of social and economic problems, said the minister in his statement.

Enhancing the concept of decentralisation in governorates

was in implementation of His Majesty King Hussein's directives to the government of Prime Minister Taher Masri and a manifestation of the government's keenness to deal with various issues facing the local communities.

"The prime minister has briefed the provincial governors on the realities in the Arab and international arena and the Kingdom's political and economic policies in the current stage," Mr. Esbou said.

Later, the prime minister chaired a meeting at the Interior Ministry to discuss questions related to dealing with the drought in Jordan.

The meeting, attended by a government-appointed drought

committee, discussed the question of providing animal feed to the stockbreeders and distribution of the commodity to various beneficiaries in Jordan, said the minister.

Agreement has been reached to conduct a new counting of cattle and sheep in Jordan and to locate their areas prior to working out a plan that would ensure fair distribution of animal feed to the beneficiaries, said the minister.

The minister said that the treasury subsidises annually the purchase of animal feed at the rate of JD 12 million out of a total allocation of JD 21 million earmarked by the government to deal with problems pertaining to drought and agricultural issues.

The drought committee, which is chaired by the interior minister, groups the ministers of agriculture, industry, trade and supply, finance, water and irrigation and the director of the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO).

In a separate development, Mr. Masri visited the Army Headquarters and held a meeting with Army Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleb to discuss the general situation in the Middle East and new developments in the region.

Mr. Masri and Gen. Abu Taleb reviewed the Kingdom's standing policies with regard to the region's issues, and international relations as emphasised by His Majesty King Hussein, and the role the Armed Forces can play in protecting the country's security and stability.

Survey shows only 43% of Jordanians read Arabic dailies

AMMAN (J.T.) — A survey conducted by Dr. Abdul Razzak Bani Hani from the University of Jordan and Mohammad Shireih from Yarmouk University on the role of the press has revealed that 43 per cent of Jordanian people read the daily papers on regular basis.

"This means that 57 per cent of the people of Jordan are deprived of a constant flow of information," said the two researchers in their study entitled "An Analytical Study on the Effectiveness of the Press From the Readers' perspective."

The survey revealed that 86.6 per cent of the newspaper readers believe that the credibility of the local press is below the acceptable level, despite the recent moves in the country towards democratic rule.

Therefore, the survey said, the local press's influence on the members of the public does not exceed the average and most people believe there is need for the government to issue licences for more newspapers which can meet the readers' desire to have a variety news reports.

According to the researchers, people interviewed in the survey were chosen at random from Amman, Salt, Zarqa, Irbid and Mafrqa. Answers came from 325 persons of various ages.

The questions enquired about the effects of Al Ra'i, Al Dustour and Sawt Al Shaab Arabic dailies.

According to the survey, among those who read the newspapers nearly 73 per cent are interested in home news while 78 per cent read world news.

Ten per cent of the total number of people surveyed do not consider the press as a good source of information.

Department registers 81% higher revenues over 1990

AMMAN (Petra) — The Land Survey Department has collected JD 2,454,644 in revenues last July, registering an 81 per cent increase compared to the same month last year when revenues reached JD 2,337,954.

The department revenues in July witnessed a 22 per cent increase over revenues in June, the department sources said.



Minister of Information Khaled Al Karaki and his Sudanese counterpart Abdullah Mohammad

Ahmed Monday sign a culture and information cooperation agreement (Petra photo)

Jordan, Sudan sign agreement of cooperation in culture, information

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Sudan Monday signed documents paving the ground for bilateral cooperation in cultural and information fields, in implementation of a 1970 protocol and its executive programmes.

A statement by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the documents signed by Minister of Information Khaled Al Karaki and his Sudanese counterpart Abdullah Mohammad Ahmad cover cooperation in the years 1991, 1992 and 1993.

Dr. Karaki said at the signing ceremony that the two countries attach due importance to deepening cooperation in cultural fields.

The agreement to stimulate bilateral cooperation reflects the deep sense, on the part of the Jordanian and Sudanese peoples, to give further impetus to culture and cultural exchanges, which, he said, can help the two peoples deal with common issues.

Dr. Karaki said that the ministry of Information and Culture in Jordan was ready to implement the

agreement for the best interests of the Sudanese and Jordanian peoples.

The Sudanese minister thanked the Jordanian government and said that information was a very important tool for serious action to serve the Arab Nation.

The Sudanese minister extended an invitation to Dr. Karaki to visit Khartoum and pursue joint efforts to bolster bilateral cooperation in cultural affairs.

According to Petra, the documents, which contain minutes of deliberations and talks held between the two ministers and senior officials from the two sides, provide for an exchange of radio and television programmes, school programmes, and for joint production of radio and television programmes. It also provides for exchanges of visits by technicians and specialists in information and culture, for holding joint seminars and workshops and for exchange of booklets and publications.

Referring to the situation in southern Sudan, he said that it was improving progressively, but did not give further details.

Petri said that the two sides had agreed their national news agencies launch cooperation in the field of news reports and the exchange of pictures, and news material.

He said that the two sides had pledged to open cultural centres in Amman and Khartoum to organise the cultural and artistic activities and supervise cultural cooperation in the face of common challenges.

Referring to the situation in southern Sudan, he said that it was improving progressively, but did not give further details.

The Sudanese minister told Petra that the present circumstances require from Jordan and Sudan to intensify their contacts and increase their cooperation in cultural and informational fields.

He said that his visit to Jordan and talks with officials aimed at consolidating Arab cooperation in the face of common challenges.

Referring to the situation in southern Sudan, he said that it was improving progressively, but did not give further details.

Dr. Bani Hani said that a special programme had been started to spray insecticides in districts infested with insects and rodents and the programme will be implemented soon.

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Salim Al Zoubi last month briefed a visiting UNEP official on cooperation with other government and private institutions in the course of protecting the environment in Jordan.

The minister said that IUCN took an active role in the preparation of the national strategy to help the Kingdom protect the environment and initiate projects for the achievement of that goal.

WHO helps ministry with waste disposal study project

AMMAN (J.T.) — The ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the environment is cooperating with the World Health Organisation (WHO) in conducting a comprehensive study on the management and disposal of solid waste, according to ministry Secretary General Mohammad Bani Hani.

A WHO expert is expected in Amman soon to help out with the preparation of the study and with steps to be taken to implement the project, Dr. Bani Hani said in a statement Monday.

Speaking during a meeting with directors of the ministry's various departments to review work in the coming stage, Dr. Bani Hani announced that a Jordanian national environmental strategy, which took two years to prepare, would soon be announced in Jordan in the presence of the president of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

With the completion of the strategy, Jordan will be the third country in the world to work out a national strategy and draw up a special set of principles to be followed in the course of implementing economic and social projects.

According to Dr. Bani Hani, the ministry is now making preparations for the declaration of the national environment strategy which is to be adopted in Jordan in line with specification and regulations defined by IUCN, he said.

The strategy, Dr. Bani Hani said, hinges on two axes: carrying out environmental projects in various sectors and creating appropriate legislations in cooperation with the concerned organisations, including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the IUCN fund.

The ministry is currently in

Local firm to build dam at Ruweished

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Agriculture Monday awarded a tender to local construction firm to set up an earth dam at Ruweished, in the eastern regions of Jordan, as part of the ongoing efforts to develop the Hammam Basin.

Under the contract, the local firm will carry out the JD 611,000 project in 12 months. The dam will have a storage capacity of nearly 10.7 million cubic metres

of water.

The project, whose designs and studies have been prepared by a local consultancy firm, will benefit agricultural projects as it would provide sufficient water for irrigation and the creation of pasture land for animal grazing.

A statement said that the feasibility study on the project was conducted in cooperation with a foreign engineering firm and under the supervision of the

ministries of agriculture and water and irrigation.

Agriculture Minister Sabri Al Qasem and the firm's manager signed the contract at a ceremony held at the

PNC to meet in Algiers

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Baker sought support from President Benyamin. The secretary of state also sought support over the weekend in Morocco and Tunisia.

Libya remains on the State Department list of nations that sponsor "terrorism" and the United States since 1986 has maintained an economic embargo on that country.

The White House said Monday it would make no "secret deals" to get Israelis and Arabs to attend the peace conference, but acknowledged that plenty of contacts were going on between the Middle East and Washington.

Spokesman Merlin Fitzwater also told reporters he thought there could be a resolution to the Middle East conflict in the next several months if the peace talks go ahead.

"We have made no commitment on the end product. We have made no secret deals on end results," Mr. Fitzwater said in response to questions about whether the United States was promising anything to participants in the peace conference.

"We have said before we have not made any secret deals. But obviously we've had a lot of secret talks about these things," Mr. Fitzwater said.

"Secretary Baker has been in non-stop private, secret talks if you like, for the last three months to try to get this conference going," he said.

Iraq admits it had germ lab

(Continued from page 1)

in attitude since his previous visit. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) Sunday listed several sites the team had visited and said it had travelled north to the Mosul area.

There reportedly is a site near Mosul that still concerns U.S. officials, including Mr. Bush. The team left Sunday and was expected to remain two days, the INA report said.

Mr. Kay was head of the second team that flushed out evidence of a secret uranium enrichment programme — a first step in making a nuclear warhead.

Iraq admitted enriching uranium after that team photographed equipment during an incident in which Iraqi soldiers fired in the air.

INA said Sunday that Mr. Kay and his latest team had visited thermal power stations at Al Mussayeb south of Baghdad and Al Dora outside Baghdad.

INA said that Saturday the team had discussed Iraq's uranium enrichment programme with Iraqi scientists.

"The dialogue conducted by the team was very useful with Iraqi technicians giving the team a comprehensive and detailed picture of the goals and dimensions of the enrichment programme and answering in detail queries from the international team members," it added.

Also Monday, Iraqi Health Minister Abdul Salam Mohammad Saeed, again accused the United States and its Gulf war coalition partners of creating obstacles to block medicine from Iraq.

He told the daily newspaper Al Iraq that claims about medicine being used for military purposes were false.

The health minister said the medicine imported through humanitarian and international organisations was insufficient.

Aspin's views

The United States should push for flooding Iraq with United Nations inspectors to see that it abides by U.N. rules against nuclear and chemical weapons instead of trying to oust President Saddam Hussein, a key U.S. congressman said Sunday.

Les Aspin, chairman of the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee, said on ABC Television's "This Week with David Brinkley" that inspections should be beefed up and inspectors given free rein to root out violations of U.N. rules prohibiting Iraq's development of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

"I think you just flood the country with inspectors, insist on the compliance with U.N. Resolution 687, which is no more chemicals, no more biologicals, no more nuclears, no more missiles," the Wisconsin Democrat said.

Probe launched into release

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Sick said he had conducted a two-year investigation of the charges and found there was some evidence to support them, although he did not have absolute proof.

One of those involved in the meetings, according to Mr. Sick, was William Casey, a Reagan campaign aide and later director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Mr. Casey died in 1987.

Mr. Sick said he had reports that Mr. Bush attended a meeting with Iranians in October, 1980 in

Paris, but did not know if his information was correct. Mr. Bush has strongly denied he was at such a meeting.

Mr. Foley started an informal review of the allegations after they were published and Mr. Sick met privately with several House members.

After repeated efforts by Mr. Carter and U.S. diplomats to free the hostages failed, Mr. Carter approved a military rescue attempt in April, 1980. The mission failed when some helicopters carrying troops broke down in the Iranian desert.

The Aga Khan Trust for Culture:

Revitalising cultural forms

Press release

THE Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) promotes and focuses attention on contemporary expressions in the architecture and planning of the built environment and assists those responsible for shaping it in the future. The trust was created to explore ideas and develop strategies aimed at lessening the damaging impact brought about by rapid change and revitalising the diverse cultural forms and expressions that exist across the Islamic world.

In 1977, the Aga Khan Award for Architecture was set up to address pressing issues concerning the built environment in the Islamic world and to broaden awareness of the vitality of its diverse cultures. Its approach is to promote architectural excellence by encouraging building rooted in good design. Up to \$500,000 in prizes is awarded every three years to winning architectural projects. But the award is more than a prize; it is a process of intellectual inquiry that brings together professionals and scholars from the Islamic world and beyond. An integral part of this process is a regular series of international seminars. Reports of the seminars have been published by the award as well as a series of monographs on architecture.

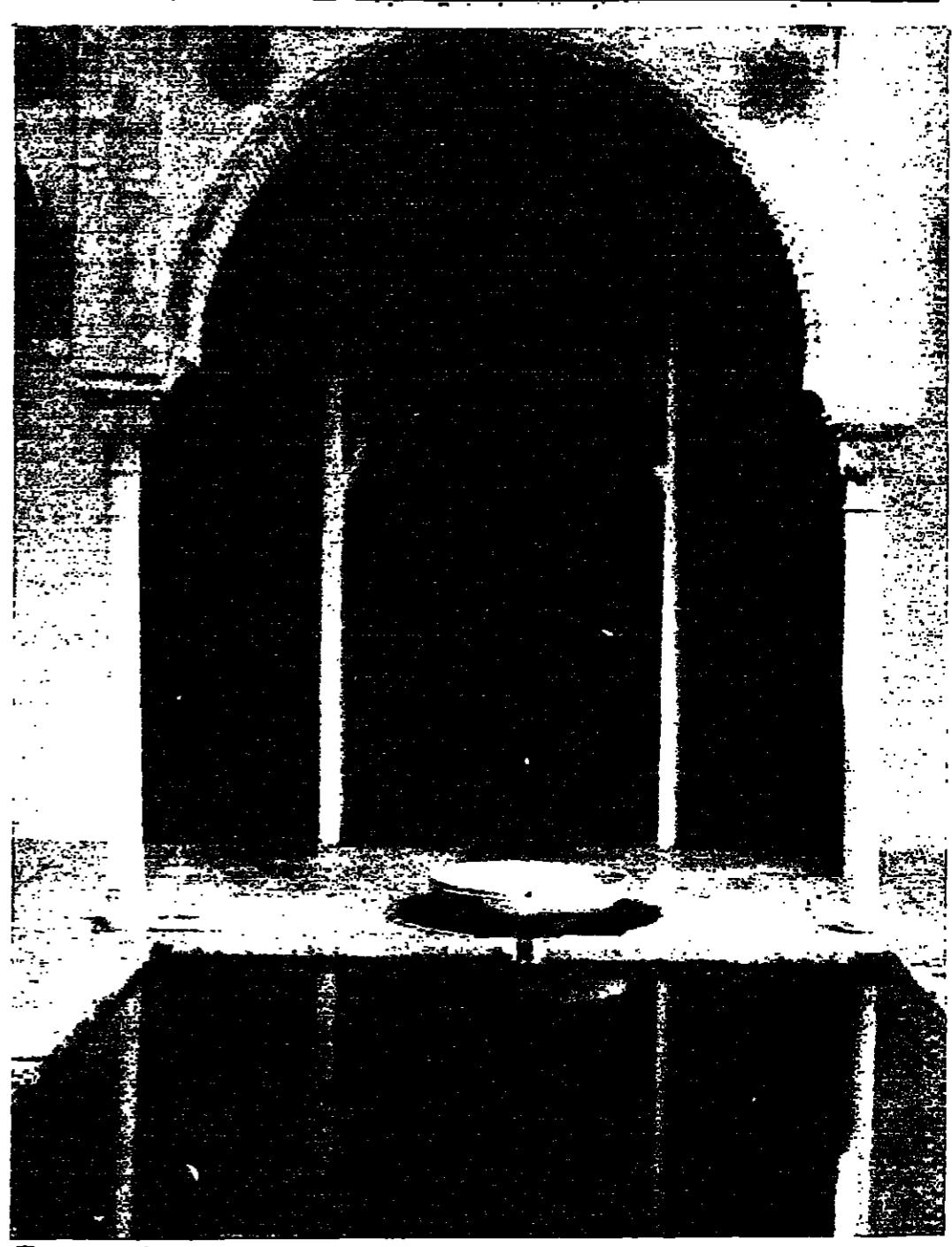
The award's headquarters in Geneva is also the repository of a growing archive on the built environment. Grants made to Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1979 enabled them to establish the Aga Khan Prog-

ramme for Islamic Architecture. Its mandate is to educate new generations of architects, planners, teachers and researchers. In 1985 MIT added a masters degree in Design for Islamic Societies to its curriculum. It provides a thorough grounding in the problems of architecture and urban design in Islamic and other non-Western societies. In addition, The Aga Khan Unit for Housing and Urbanisation is situated in the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University to study ways to improve the quality of housing and urban structures in developing countries.

In 1988 the trust made two grants establishing Aga Khan Visiting Professorships at the University of Jordan in Amman and the Dawood College of Engineering and Technology in Karachi, Pakistan. Its long-term aim is to encourage regional centres in the Islamic world that meet the highest international standards of architectural education.

The trust's most significant initiative since 1988 deals with the conservation and economic revitalisation of Islamic architectural heritage worldwide. Through direct interventions into the built environment in its Historic Cities Support Programme, the Trust is acting to improve urban life and revitalise historic urban centres. This follows from the award's involvement in restoration projects in Pakistan, Turkey, Spain, Morocco and elsewhere. These projects, as well as the other initiatives are now under the trust's auspices.

Approaching architecture



The courtyard of the two storey Zafra House constructed in the late 14th century being restored as the Centre for the Historic Studies of Granada and its Kingdom. The slim columns and rounded arches and geometric ornamentation are a good example of Arab Nasrid design characteristic of Islamic Spain.

My life's work written off

By Nawal Al Saadawi



I WAS born in a small village about 100 kilometres north of Cairo. My grandmother was a peasant woman. She spent her life hoeing the black earth. I remember her saying to me: "I would tighten the belt around my belly to hold back the hunger pangs. That's how your father became an educated man."

There were nine sisters and brothers in my family. I got into medical school by obtaining a scholarship for myself. I remember how my father's eyes shone that morning when I told him what I'd done. But one year after I graduated my mother died of cancer, and soon after that my father followed her.

By then I was writing. From the start, writing was like breathing. It was life itself. When other young women and men went out to enjoy the summer nights of Cairo, I sat at my desk and wrote. That is how my brothers and sisters went to college. I divorced two husbands because they wanted me to break my pen and hold a broom instead.

In 1972 three things happened at once. I lost my job at the ministry of health; the Association for Health Education which I had founded, was closed; and the magazine Health, edited by me and my husband, was suspended.

The authorities said I must not write about politics, religion, or sex. But writing for me was like breathing; how could I stop? So I stayed at home for five years and wrote. At the end I had become the most widely read novelist and writer in the Arab countries.

In 1980 Doubleday's Mary Brown wanted to publish one of my books. But some important man in the publishing house said: "No, the book is too polemical. We want only the personal side of your life, so edit it and bring it back." I went away, sat down to work, and forgot.

Sometime later a woman friend said: "There's a small publishing house in London called Zed." My husband said: "Why not? I'll do the translation for you, then we'll send it off." So in 1980 my first book in English, *The Hidden Face of Eve*, came out. Last year it was

felt more secure. My savings were there in the bank, and my children had grown up. My son, now 26, had passed his engineering studies with honours, but he wanted to make films from an early age. He had done work as an assistant, but he needed to study more, and the money was there in the bank for him to go to the National Film School or somewhere else. At the age of 60 I could begin to relax, travel and sometimes enjoy myself, after a long haul, a very long haul.

But that morning I remembered the telephone rang. I picked up the receiver and somebody was saying: "Have you read the newspapers? They're liquidating our bank. Our money is gone, or frozen, or something like that." I could not understand what he was talking about or relate to it.

Later people kept saying to me: "You know that's life." Somehow I find it difficult to submit. It has always been like that. I do not believe you can take away my life's savings, even if you are the Governor of the Bank of England or a few millionaires playing around with an Arab bank. The Guardian

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SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Monaco recaptures league leadership

PARIS (R) — A last-minute goal by Liberian striker Georges Weah gave Monaco their fourth victory in as many matches to recapture the lead in the French first division Sunday. Monaco were back to the top of the table after being temporarily displaced by Marseille Saturday when the French champions won 2-1 at Rennes. Christophe Robert put Monaco, last season's league runners-up and French cup winners, ahead after 23 minutes. More Cameroon striker Francois Ousman-Biyik equalised in the 37th minute. Weah's fifth goal this season made Monaco the only side with maximum points. Marseille is second, one point behind, and left Cannes fifth from the bottom with only two points after four matches.

Yugoslavia to play without Croats

BELGRADE (R) — Yugoslavia have omitted three regular Croatian players from their squad for a soccer tournament in Italy this week, team officials said Monday. Midfielder Zvonimir Boban, striker Davor Suker and goalkeeper Drazen Ladic, all of Hask Gradjanski Zagreb, were not included after Croatian sports authorities advised all athletes from the republic not to compete for Yugoslavia. "I intended to call them in but I don't want to make life difficult for anybody," said coach Ivica Osim. "Let's not make a big fuss about it all. We'll see what the future will bring." Croatia declared independence from Yugoslavia on June 25, the move triggering bloody inter-ethnic clashes in the republic in which more than 200 people have died. Italian club sides Genoa and Lazio are competing along with the Czechoslovak national side in the four-team tournament which begins Wednesday.

Sampdoria beats Arsenal in final

LONDON (R) — Italian champions Sampdoria edged out English counterparts Arsenal despite having a player sent off in a stormy final and won the Makita four-club soccer tournament for the second successive year Sunday. Sampdoria striker Renato Buso, who scored four goals in his team's 6-1 drubbing of West Ham Saturday, was ordered off for elbowing Arsenal skipper Tony Adams after 55 minutes. Ten-man Sampdoria, already 10 down following an 18th-minute effort by Paul Merson, hit back with a brilliant goal from star striker Gianluca Vialli in the 70th minute to send the final into a penalty shoot-out. They won the shoot-out 3-2. Sampdoria coach Vujadin Boskov criticised Buso's dismissal. "There was a clash of two players in the air. I don't think my player deserved to be sent off," he said. "Both players went in with maximum force. It was an athletic clash. These things happen." Greek champions Panathinaikos won the third-place play-off, beating English first division West Ham 3-2 in a penalty shoot-out after a 1-1 draw.

Jahangir Khan beaten in squash

ADELAIDE (R) — Jahangir Khan, surprisingly beaten in Sunday's final of the World Squash Open Championship, said Monday a band of professional referees should be employed to lift the standard of officiating. The Pakistani, 27, beaten in an epic four-game battle by Australia's fifth-seeded Rodney Martin was highly critical of New Zealand referee Chas Evans. Martin, 25, won his first world title 11-17 15-9 15-4 15-13, in a tense match marred by several physical clashes which resulted in the calling of a high number of lets. Khan said the International Squash Players Federation (ISPA) should speed up a plan already being considered to create a band of professional referees travelling the world circuit.

Gomez wins third U.S. pro title

BROOKLINE, (AP) — Andres Gomez of Ecuador won his third U.S. pro tennis title with a 7-5, 6-4 victory over top seed Andrei Cherkasov of the Soviet Union. The victory, following championships in 1986 and 1989, was the most recent triple win since Bjorn Borg completed the feat each year from 1974 to 1976 at Longwood Cricket Club. Gomez, 31, the seventh seed, took advantage of Cherkasov, who had played a rain-interrupted semifinal that began Saturday evening and did not conclude until noon. Cherkasov outlasted No. 5 Jimmy Arias 7-6 (8-6), 3-6, 6-4, two hours before the match against Gomez. Gomez got a decisive opening set break when Cherkasov hit long on a pair of forehands to lose the 12th game. Gomez won 14 of 19 points in taking a 3-0 lead in the concluding set and both players held serve to complete the third consecutive U.S. pro title to be decided in straight sets. The victory earned Gomez \$50,000, while Cherkasov got \$25,000.

Perez-Roldan wins in San Marino

SAN MARINO (R) — Guillermo Perez-Roldan, aiming to climb back into the tennis top 20, beat Frenchman Frederic Fontang to retain his San Marino Open Title. The top-seeded Argentine dismissed unseeded Fontang 6-3 6-1 in the final to claim the seventh title of his career. Perez-Roldan, ranked 14th in the world earlier this year, had slipped to 33rd at the start of the San Marino tournament. He was forced to pull out of the final of a tournament in Munich in April with damaged knee ligaments. Fontang, virtually unknown outside France before the tournament, upset number two seed Jordi Arrese of Spain in the second round. Fontang did not drop a set until the final.

Soviet player joins Dutch club

AMSTERDAM (R) — Dutch first division side FC Groningen have signed Soviet international defender Andrei Zygmantovich from Dynamo Minsk, the club Monday. The 28-year-old, who has made over 30 appearances for the Soviet Union, has signed a one-year contract. The transfer fee was not disclosed.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH
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* Q 8 5 2
* Q 8 3
* K 9
* A 7 4
SOUTH
♦ A K 7
♥ K 10 6
♦ A Q 3
♦ J 6 5 2

The bidding
South West North East
1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♦

By applying the Rule of 11, a defenser can deduce a lot about declarer's holding from partner's fourth-best lead. But that lead is there for the world to see, and declarer can utilize the same information for his own advantage. This hand occurred in a rubber bridge game.

The bidding was right out of a bridge textbook. South opened one no trump with a balanced 17 points and North, with a 4-3-3-3 shape and 10 points, had an easy raise to game.

West led the deuce of spades and, when dummy hit the table, declarer could count eight fast tricks. The hand was a finesse's delight — declarer could take a diamond finesse and had the choice of which way to hook for the queen of hearts. However, the fact declarer could read from the opening lead that West held only four spades obviated the need to rely on the unknown. All the play required was a modicum of plain dealing.

Declarer captured East's ten of spades with the king and immediately forced out the ace of clubs. West continued with a low spade to the jack and ace, and declarer claimed the hand. He announced he was going to clear the clubs and exit with a spade. West could cash the last spade or not, as the defenser wished, but then would have to lead a red suit for declarer, eliminating any game chance.

Incidentally, note that declarer can adopt the same line even if West started with five spades as long as South plays off only three rounds of clubs altogether. Should declarer clear all the clubs, there will be an impossible discarding problem for South when West cashes the fifth spade. Try it for yourself and see the difference.

Capriati knocks Seles from Number 1 spot

CARLSBAD, California (AP) — After finally putting to rest rumours about why she skipped Wimbledon, Monica Seles has something new to worry about — Jennifer Capriati.

The 15-year-old Capriati defeated Seles 4-6, 6-1, 7-6 Sunday to win the \$225,000 Mazda Classic and knock the Yugoslav native from the No. 1 ranking. It was Capriati's second defeat of Seles in two weeks and first ever in a sanctioned tournament.

"I think I'm definitely a little closer (to being No. 1)," Capriati said. "This give me confidence."

Seles and Capriati last met two weeks ago in an exhibition at Mahwah, New Jersey, where Capriati won 6-3, 7-5. Seles had prevailed in both of their previous tour matches.

Capriati only has a learner's permit to drive, but had no trouble testing her prize, a special-edition car, on the roads at the La Costa Resort and spa.

"She was perfect. With a stick (shift), too," said her father, Stefano, who went along for the ride.

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Financial Markets		Jordan Times			
in co-operation with		Cairo Amman Bank			
U.S. Dollar in International Markets					
* USD Per STG * European Opened at 1500 U.S. GMT					
Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE	TOKYO CLOSE			
Sterling Pound	1.6850	1.6750			
Deutsche Mark	1.7405	1.7350			
Swiss Franc	1.5135	1.5150			
French Franc	5.9155	5.9050*			
Japanese Yen	137.20	137.15			
European Currency Unit	1.1740	1.1625*			
* USD Per STG * European Opened at 1500 U.S. GMT					
International Reserve Rates					
Date: 5/8/91					
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS	
U.S. Dollar	1.61	1.61	1.60	1.62	
Sterling Pound	10.21	10.81	10.75	11.02	
Deutsche Mark	1.7415	1.7415	1.7415	1.7415	
Swiss Franc	1.5122	1.5124	1.5121	1.5120	
French Franc	5.9127	5.9126	5.9125	5.9124	
Japanese Yen	137.00	137.15	137.15	137.15	
European Currency Unit	1.1740	1.1625	1.1625	1.1625	
Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent					
Precious Metals					
Date: 5/8/91					
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD Gm
Gold	356.45	6.95	Silver	1.54	1.04
* 21 Karat					
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin				Date: 5/8/91	
Currency	Bid	Offer			
U.S. Dollar	1.687	1.692			
Sterling Pound	10.216	10.814			
Deutsche Mark	1.7415	1.7415			
Swiss Franc	1.5122	1.5124			
French Franc	5.9127	5.9126			
Japanese Yen	137.00	137.15			
European Currency Unit	1.1740	1.1625			
Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent					
Other Currencies				Date: 5/8/91	
Currency	Bid	Offer			
Bahraini Dinar	1.7860	1.7950			
Lebanese Lira	.0750	.0770			
Saudi Riyal	.1829	.1836			
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	—			
Qatari Riyal	.1860	.1865			
Egyptian Pound	.1950	.2180			
Omanese Riyal	1.7500	1.7600			
UAE Dirham	.1860	.1865			
Greek Drachma	.3500	.3600			
Cypriot Pound	1.4200	1.4400			
* Per 100					
CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market					
Index	3/8/91	Clos	4/8/91	Close	
All-Share	169.91	109.96			
Banking Sector	104.45	104.48			
Insurance Sector	119.24	119.13			
Industry Sector	115.21	115.36			
Services Sector	127.36	127.52			
December 31, 1990 - 100					

Gorbachev orders fast production, importation of consumer goods, food

MOSCOW (Agencies) — President Mikhail Gorbachev has ordered an immediate increase in production and importation of food and consumer goods in his first major step toward a market economy since meeting world leaders last month.

In allocating foreign currency and credits, the trade and finance ministries should emphasize importing grain, medicine and materials of equipment needed to make goods for mass consumption, President Gorbachev said in a decree the TASS news agency published Sunday.

The decree also urges republics to barter goods and services to help supply their populations. It calls on the cabinet of ministers to adjust tariffs to encourage imports of consumer goods in wide demand, while limiting imports of luxury goods.

The decree says the national cabinet and the governments of the 15 republics should "actively carry out a policy of privatisation, de-monopolisation, and development of entrepreneurship" to boost production of consumer goods.

In particular, Mr. Gorbachev recommended more rapid creation of "a market infrastructure," including trading houses, exchanges and auctions.

The decree, dated Saturday but not made public until Sunday night, was issued under special economic powers the Supreme Soviet legislature granted the president last year.

In the past, his orders often have met resistance from the republics, which claim the right to control their own natural resources and economic policies.

Soviet consumers suffer chronic shortages of many everyday items, ranging from cheese to glass bottles. Inflation has soared, and the Soviet equivalent of a gross national product dropped 10 per cent in the first six months of this year.

As with many of his past decrees, Mr. Gorbachev's latest edict contained few details. It will be up to the republics and the national cabinet, led by Prime

Minister Valentin Pavlov, to decide on specific steps.

At the Group of Seven (G-7) economic summit meeting on July 17, Gorbachev sketched the broad outline of a plan to move away from central planning toward a market economy. The measures he envisioned included selling off most government industries, converting some defence plants to civilian production and making the rouble a freely convertible international currency.

Aside from calling for privatisation, Mr. Gorbachev's decree does not tackle those issues.

At the G-7 meeting, the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Canada and Japan offered technical assistance and cooperation, but not cash or credits to assist Mr. Gorbachev.

Meanwhile, Railways Minister Leonid Matyukhin said Sunday the Soviet railway industry was in a critical state, with both freight and passenger traffic falling sharply.

Speaking to Moscow radio, the newly-appointed minister said haulage revenues were shrinking because of the country's declining industrial production.

"Compared with last year, we carried 186 million tonnes less freight, and passenger transport is down by 10 to 12 per cent ... there is not enough output for us to carry — including coal, ore, fertilisers and all sorts of other goods," he said.

In the first six months of this year, Soviet gross national product fell by 10 per cent and industrial output by six per cent.

Mr. Matyukhin said railway equipment was in a poor state of repair and hundreds of broken down wagons were lying idle due to shortages of metal and lumber with which to repair them.

He predicted further problems with freight this winter. The Soviet Union's collapsing distribution network is largely blamed for food shortages.

The country's road system is poorly developed, making transport of goods heavily dependent on trains.

Egypt takes charge of BCCI affiliate

CAIRO (R) — A government administrator took control of Bank of Credit and Commerce Misr SAE, Egyptian affiliate of scandal-hit BCCI, Monday.

BCCI's board was dissolved by the central bank Sunday. Officials said Abdul Ghani Gam'i, head of Egyptian American Bank, would run BCCI under central bank supervision to protect depositors.

The BCCI is 49 per cent controlled by Bank of Credit and Commerce International. The other 51 per cent is owned by Egyptians. An unknown amount of its deposits abroad have been frozen by foreign governments against BCCI.

When news broke in early July that assets of the Luxembourg-based BCCI had been frozen in

several countries on charges of widespread fraud, there was a run on its Egyptian affiliate.

Depositors withdrew \$15 million and 48 million Egyptian pounds (\$14.4 million) over three days, one BCCI official said. Another said it was five times the normal withdrawal rate.

One depositor, who declined to be named, said Monday the bank has put a ceiling on withdrawals of \$1,000 or 3,000 Egyptian pounds (\$906). Those who have deposit accounts were not able to break into them before maturity, he added.

Earlier last month, the bank had limited withdrawals to \$25,000 or 50,000 Egyptian pounds (\$15,100).

Officials declined to give details of the bank's capital.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

TOKYO — Stocks drifted down through the day to close near their lows in the slowest day's trading in more than seven years. The key 225-share Nikkei Index lost 194.72 points or 0.81 per cent to 23,532.55.

PARIS — A lifeless Paris bourse ended only fractionally lower but volume — 800 million francs — was the thinnest in more than three years, exchange authorities said. The CAC-40 index ended at 1,762.22, down 4.30 points.

LONDON — Stocks ended at their day's lows after drifting downwards all day following Friday record closing high. Doubts about the speed of economic recovery weighed on the market. The FTSE 100 Index lost 16.3 points to 2,585.4.

Jordan's debt repayment to Soviet Union stalled

By Robin Agarwal
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Repayment of roughly \$108 million of Jordan's total debt to the Soviet Union has been stalled as a result of political and economic uncertainty following the end of the Gulf war.

The second of three bilateral protocols between Jordan and the Soviet Union was supposed to have been signed in March this year. However, the signing has been delayed indefinitely as Jordan struggles with new financial uncertainty.

"On our side, we have no idea what is going on," admitted Soviet Commercial Attaché Yevlanov. "Although we're preparing for negotiation on the second protocol, nothing much will happen at least until the end of September."

Nonetheless, the debt remains. The protocols allow Jordan's debt to the Soviet Union — about \$150 million — to be repaid in Jordan-made consumer goods and phosphates rather than currency. Most of the debt was accumulated between 1984 and 1987.

The first protocol, which was

signed on March 5, 1990, was for \$42 million worth of Jordanian products, according to Ibrahim Badran, undersecretary at the Ministry of Industry and Trade. \$22 million was to be repaid in phosphates, with the remaining \$20 million in consumer goods.

However, in late April 1990, the Soviet Union requested a restructuring of this ratio of phosphates to consumer goods. The result was a \$8 million transfer from phosphates to consumables. Jordanian companies that benefited from the transfer were all companies hardest hit by the Gulf war, according to one ministry official.

With two notable exceptions, nearly all of the first protocol contracts for consumer goods have been met on schedule. According to figures from the Ministry of Industry and Trade, less than 23 per cent of the total \$3.2 million refrigerator contract and less than 38 per cent of the total contract for gas cookers were actually exported to the Soviet Union during the specified period. The ministry expects that both contracts will be fulfilled this year.

"We are trying to multiply our efforts to compensate for losses (incurred by Jordanian businessmen) during the Gulf war," Dr. Badran said. "But it is premature to say when we might recover completely of the economic machine."

Jordan continues to run a trade deficit with the Soviet Union. Recent statistics released by the Ministry of Industry and Trade to the Jordan Times put exports to the Soviet Union at \$14.94 million for the year ended Nov. 30, 1990. Imports totalled \$18.4 million.

"We produce the kind and quality of the goods they demand."

Last November, the Ministry of Industry and Trade established a permanent commercial centre in Moscow to assist and advise Jordanian exporters as well as Soviet businessmen. Jordanian trade delegations also have stepped up efforts at consumer shows held in the Soviet Union.

"We can no longer rely on Jordan's traditional markets — the Arab countries — for our products, even though that would be more natural," Dr. Badran said. "We need to look beyond them for new markets."



Ibrahim Badran

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Merger of Jordan Gulf Bank, Al Mashreq Bank under study

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A merger of the Jordan Gulf Bank with Al Mashreq Bank — both now operating under the direct control of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) — is under serious consideration but no final decision has yet been taken on the issue, BCBJ-appointed committees are assessing the actual situation of the banks — in terms of assets and liabilities — and until and unless the process is completed no decision can be taken," said a well-informed source.

But, added the source, "there is a strong argument in favour of a merger of the two banks since prudent banking instincts dictate that a unified entity will emerge much stronger than either of them standing on its own."

The Jordan-Gulf Bank and Petra Bank, another troubled Jordanian institution, were taken over by the CBJ under an order

by the Economic Security Committee (ESC) in August 1989 with the objective of merging the two.

But the financial status of Petra Bank did not permit its resurrection, and the ESC reversed its merger order in April 1990. While Petra Bank was ordered liquidated, the 20 branches of the Jordan-Gulf Bank with a total staff strength close to 500 continued its operations under the supervision of a CBJ-appointed panel.

Several former officials of the Jordan-Gulf Bank face charges in a military court which is trying Petra Bank cases.

An official source said the preliminary finding of an investigating committee was that the Jordan Gulf Bank is salvageable since it did not suffer as much as damage as Petra Bank."

Informed banking circles said the Central Bank had pumped in around JD 25 million to keep the Jordan-Gulf Bank floating since its take-over while it had injected

New fighting erupts in Croatia after EC peace mission fails

BELGRADE (AP) — New fighting was reported Monday in the separatist Republic of Croatia, punctuating disappointment over a failed European peace mission.

Yugoslav media reported that fighting broke out late Sunday near Split, a major Adriatic port, in eastern Slavonia near the border with rival Serbia and in central Croatia.

There were no immediate reports of casualties in any of the republic's 5 million people.

Croatia and Serbia, Yugoslavia's two largest republics that are traditional rivals, traded accusations of blame for the collapse of the European Community peace effort.

But the leader of an EC peace mission laid the blame at Serbia's door and left Belgrade Sunday, warning "tragedy and catastrophe" loomed.

"The outside world definitely has the right to know" that the talks broke down because of the Serbian delegation's stubbornness, said Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van Den Broek. He spoke upon his return to Amsterdam after heading the three-man mission for two days of talks with top Yugoslav leaders.

Philippine guerrilla army chief captured in Manila

MANILA (R) — Philippine police captured the chief of the Communist guerrilla New People's Army (NPA) and his wife at a Manila hospital Monday, police said.

Romulo Kintanar was having a medical check-up at the Makati Medical Centre in Manila's financial district when police arrested him, Colonel Pervival Adiong said in a radio interview.

Mr. Kintanar and his wife, Gloria Jopson, were surrounded by about a dozen policemen when they were brought out of the hospital in handcuffs and driven to a suburban police camp, a Reuter reporter on the scene said.

Mr. Kintanar was arrested in an ophthalmologist's clinic on the third floor of the hospital, hospital staff said.

Mr. Kintanar had been previously captured by the military but escaped from detention in 1989.

The NPA, military arm of the banned Philippine Communist Party, has been fighting for 22 years to establish a Marxist state. As NPA commander in chief and member of the party's Central Committee, Mr. Kintanar carried a bounty of one million pesos (\$35,700), the military said. A reward of 500,000 pesos (\$17,850) was offered for his wife.

"We have been on his heels for some time. This is a blessing from the Lord," said Col. Adiong, one of the officers commanding the unit that carried out the arrest.

Mr. Kintanar was the 10th guerrilla officer captured by the military and police in raids on rebel hideouts in Manila during the past two weeks.

Reporters asked the rebel leader what his name was as police pushed him into a waiting van. "Kintanar," he told them.

Meanwhile, the Justice Department will ask former first lady Imelda Marcos and her children to respond to tax fraud charges filed by the government last week, the government announced Monday.

The "task force investigating the cases against Mrs. Imelda Marcos, her three children and in-laws has found out that there is sufficient grounds to proceed with the formal inquiry," Acting Justice Secretary Silvestre Bello said.

The preliminary investigation corresponds to a grand jury probe and could conclude with the task force asking a judge to issue an indictment and arrest warrants.

Last Thursday, the government filed 11 tax fraud charges against Mrs. Marcos, two against her son, Ferdinand Jr., and youngest daughter, Irene Araneta.

The charges were filed one day after President Corazon Aquino lifted a government ban that has blocked the family of the late President Ferdinand Marcos from returning from exile.

Mrs. Aquino, however, refused to allow the return of the remains of the former president. Mr. Marcos died in Hawaii in September 1989, three years after a popular revolt toppled his 20-year rule and installed Mrs. Aquino as president.

The collapse of the EC peace efforts reduces the chances of averting large-scale battles between the 9.8 million Serbs and 5 million Croats.

Scores already have died in Serb-Croat clashes and fighting between Croats and the army since Croatia declared independence June 25.

Fighting in Croatia stems mostly from disputes between Croats and the Serb minority that makes up about 12 per cent of the republic's 5 million people.

The Serbs claim discrimination and many are haunted by the memory of the mass killing of Serbs by Croatia's Nazi puppet regime in World War II. Croats accuse Serbia of seeking to dominate Yugoslavia and keep it Socialist.

Many ethnic Serbs in Croatia want their own rule, or to join the Serb Republic.

Croatian forces have been pushed out of areas of the republic, leaving Serb militias and the army in control. The Croats appear to have suffered the worst casualties.

They accuse the federal army of helping the Serbs. The army says it steps in only to separate the two sides.

Both Croatian TV and the army reported fighting between

Jacques Poos, the Luxembourg foreign minister who was a member of the EC delegation, told the British Broadcasting Corp. that European leaders would continue to look for a solution.

"European ministers should take the lead in putting forward some new solution, as we did in Kurdistan when we set up in northern Iraq the protection camps," he said. "It was a humanitarian intervention which was not foreseen in any charter or in any legal frame."

The mayor of the eastern Croatian city of Osijek, on the edge of an area where the Serb militias have been attacking in recent days, renewed calls for European military intervention.

"Europe's answer to Serbia's intransigence should be a military one," said Mayor Zlatko Kramaric. He described the failure of talks over the weekend as "a slap in the face of Europe by Serbia... whose leadership is now in a triumphant mood."

The Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug, reported that fighting broke out near the town of Skadrin in southern Croatia about 30 kilometres north of Split.

Both Croatian TV and the army reported fighting between

Croatian forces and the federal military, but no casualties were listed by either side.

Croatian TV said the fighting broke out when Croatian police took control of an abandoned army buffer zone. Tanjug said the army responded with mortars, cannons and infantry weapons.

Tanjug said residents of the nearby town of Obravac, Zelenograd and Krusevo fled because of the fighting.

Tanjug also quoted the army as saying it was attacked in eastern Croatia near the town of Belo Brdo, just east of Osijek. Radio Belgrade also reported fighting in Podravka Slatina, about 80 kilometres east of the Croatian capital Zagreb.

At least three Croatian policemen were reported killed Sunday.

Serbia and its allies refused to attend a meeting of the EC ministers with the federal presidency Sunday.

The Soviet News Agency (TASS) reported just 10 per cent of the factory managers in Leningrad, the second-largest Soviet city, have issued orders to

For decades, the Communist Party maintained offices in almost every factory, government agency, academic institution, newspaper and state-run business throughout the Soviet

Disbanding Communist Party cells to take months — Yeltsin aide

MOSCOW (AP) — Indicating expected stubborn opposition from Communist hardliners, a Russian Republic spokesman said Monday that party cells in Russia's factories and offices will not be fully disbanded until the end of the year.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin's decree seeking to remove politics from the workplace in the Soviet Union's largest republic formally took effect Sunday, but his government was in no hurry to enforce it.

"Now we are working out the mechanisms of fulfilling" the decree, Mr. Yeltsin's press secretary, Pavel Voshchanov, said in an interview. "By the end of the year it should be fully implemented."

Several workers interviewed Sunday on Russian TV's nightly newscast said there had been no move to do away with Communist Party cells in their workplaces.

The Soviet News Agency (TASS) reported just 10 per cent of the factory managers in Leningrad, the second-largest Soviet city, have issued orders to

For decades, the Communist Party maintained offices in almost every factory, government agency, academic institution, newspaper and state-run business throughout the Soviet

Union. These "cells" held regular meetings, controlled key personnel decisions such as hiring and promotions and at the height of their power controlled every management decision of the school or workplace.

The party has lost much of its power and prestige, including its constitutionally guaranteed monopoly on power, during Mikhail Gorbachev's six years' of reforms.

Party cells have already disappeared from many businesses.

In the past 18 months, Communist Party membership nationwide has fallen by 4.2 million, to 15 million. Nearly half the members are in the Russian Federation, by far the largest and most populous of the 15 Soviet republics.

Mr. Yeltsin's July 20 decree requires cells to be disbanded in Russia and forbids activity by any political party in the workplace during business hours. It clearly was aimed at the Communist Party and does not affect trade unions.

Mr. Gorbachev told the party's policy-making Central Committee last month that he would take whatever measures were necessary, including a presidential edict, to cancel Mr. Yeltsin's

order. But he did nothing to prevent the decree taking effect as scheduled Sunday, and the two men have continued to cooperate closely on national issues such as negotiating a new union treaty to bind the republics together in a looser federation.

The decree also calls for national legislation to remove party cells from the army, KGB, supreme court and the prosecutor's office, which Mr. Yeltsin acknowledged were outside his jurisdiction.

Gorbachev on vacation

Mr. Gorbachev has left for his annual summer vacation in the Crimea, a resort peninsula in southern Russia, TASS announced Monday.

The one-sentence item said Mr. Gorbachev left Moscow Sunday, but gave no other details on his trip.

Mr. Gorbachev usually takes about a month's vacation in August.

The Soviet leader cut short last year's holiday to address soldiers in nearby Odessa about the Gulf crisis, then returned to Moscow ahead of schedule to tackle the country's worsening economic problems and political disintegration.

COLUMN 10

Purse snatcher gets the chop from karate woman

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian karate expert killed a thief with a well aimed chop after he snatched her purse, a Cairo newspaper reported Monday. Al Ahram said Azza Magdy Farag, 25, holder of a karate black belt, chased the purse snatcher, knocked him down in a brief fight and then hauled him off to a police station.

Queen mother turns 91

SANDRINGHAM, England (AP) — Queen Mother Elizabeth quietly celebrated her 91st birthday Sunday with her daughter, the queen, at the Royal Sandringham estate in Norfolk, eastern England.

As the queen mother left the Sandringham Parish Church after morning service, the organist stopped a few bars of "Happy birthday to you," into the procession, sending the small and smiling former queen out to waiting well-wishers with a flourish. The church was packed with local residents and estate workers who joined the rector in wishing the queen mother "a very happy day." There was more applause as his words were broadcast to a crowd outside.

Troops recovered 24 bodies of rebels, including some of women guerrillas, in the operation Sunday.

Troops smashed through the rebel siege Saturday night, ending 25 days of the fiercest fighting since the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) began their campaign for a separate homeland eight years ago.

An unspecified but large number of Tigers were believed to be killed or wounded in the assault which officials called a milestone in the government's war with Tamil rebels.

Tiger rebels often carry away their dead, making a precise body count impossible.

Since July 14, about 10,000 troops had been trying to reach the besieged army camp where 800 soldiers were trapped.

The troops fought rebels entrenched in concrete underground bunkers with snipers perched on trees. They also thwarted several rebels attempts to destroy the camp by ramming its gate with bulldozers loaded with bombs, officials said.

10-year-old helps with delivery of baby sister

KANSAS CITY (AP) — When 10-year-old Johnathan Carter says he wants to be a doctor when he grows up, he's got an idea of what's involved — he's already helped deliver a baby. Johnathan was getting ready for bed Friday when his mother, Mary Carter, went into labour, three days before her due date. He led his mother to a couch, then called an ambulance.

"He was really upset and was crying when he called," said dispatcher Connie Guerrero of the Metropolitan Ambulance Services Trust. Ms. Guerrero told Johnathan to check if he could see the baby's head. He yelled back "it's coming, it's coming," she said. "Then told him to calm down because 'you and I are going to deliver this baby.'" While his mother pushed, Johnathan carefully gripped the emerging baby and pulled. "It was very exciting," he recalled later.

It was over within six minutes of his call, but Johnathan was worried. "The baby didn't cry when I pulled her out," he said. "She just looked at me."

But Jameson Ebenee Ariel Carter was just a quiet newborn. When paramedics arrived, they found Johnathan already had carefully wrapped his sister in a towel, and she was being held by their mother. "He had done the work already," paramedic Susan Cox said. Johnathan proudly wears a yellow T-shirt that says he delivered his sister at 10:55 p.m. Aug. 2. "I'm going to wear this shirt for two weeks non-stop," he said.

Asians seek compensation from Japan

TOKYO (R) — A congress of

survivors of Japan's wartime aggression has called on the government to pay billions of dollars in compensation as Germany has done, one of the organisers said Monday.

"Japan has not settled its responsibility for the damage it did in the war," Mr. Takagi said.

"This should be Japan's basic policy, to recover its international trust."

He said that since 1945 Germany had paid 50 billion dollars in compensation to governments, groups and individuals.

Japan had paid out only \$1.51 billion to governments as well as small amounts to Taiwanese

The Congress issued an appeal

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